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July 8, 2011

Via facsimile and U.S. mail
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Jeffrey Hiratsuka, Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Licensing Complaint – Emergency Response Command Post –Los Angeles County-Operating Unlicensed Community Care Facility

Dear Mr. Hiratsuka:

I am writing to file a complaint against the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for operating an unlicensed Community Care Facility in violation of Health & Safety Code §1503.5. DCFS has resumed its practice of using office space to house abuse and neglected children under the Department's supervision at its Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP) located in the Borax office building at 3075 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California. The ERCP is not licensed as a Community Care Facility and is not equipped to properly provide care and supervision to abused or neglected children.

In April of 2005, we filed a similar complaint that was substantiated, yet the corrective actions taken at that time seemingly have failed to prevent the reoccurrence of the problem. Infants, toddlers, pre-teens and teenagers are routinely spending the night in the ERCP offices. Infants sometimes sleep in the office in car seats while teenagers may sleep on couches or the floor. DCFS will undoubtedly contend that these children are simply awaiting foster care placement (either initial or replacement), but DCFS is systematically using its office space to house children under its care and supervision. After spending the night in the ERCP, children are awakened in the early morning hours and either moved to a licensed placement or their assigned social worker's regional office where they spend the day awaiting foster care placement or a return to the ERCP offices to start the process over again.

Should you have any questions regarding this complaint, please contact the undersigned. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Maria F. Ramiu
Managing Director

cc: Greta Wallace, CDSS General Counsel (via email)
Sergio Ramirez, Program Administrator, CCL Children's Residential (via email)